



Kristy D. Clark  
General Attorney

225586

BNSF Railway Company  
PO Box 981039  
Fort Worth, TX 76181  
2500 Lou Menk Drive - AOB-3  
Fort Worth, TX 76131-2828  
817-352-3394  
817-352-2397 fax

Kristy.Clark@BNSF.com

August 21, 2009

Ms. Victoria Rutson  
Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street S.W.  
Washington, DC 20423-0001



**Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 469X)**  
**BNSF Railway Company Abandonment Exemption in Tacoma,**  
**Pierce County, Washington**

Dear Ms. Rutson:

Enclosed for filing in STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 469X) are the original and ten copies of BNSF Railway Company's Environmental and Historic Reports and Certificate of Service prepared pursuant to 49 CFR§1105.7 and §1105.8.

BNSF anticipates filing a Notice of Exemption seeking authority to abandon or discontinue service of the 1.56-mile rail line on or after September 10, 2009.

Sincerely,

Kristy D. Clark  
General Attorney

Enclosures: As stated

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Kristy D. Clark  
General Attorney

BNSF Railway Company  
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August 21, 2009

Russell Holter  
Project Compliance Reviewer  
Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation  
1063 South Capitol Way, Suite 106  
Olympia, WA 98501

**Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 469X)**  
**BNSF Railway Company – Abandonment Exemption – Tacoma, Pierce County, WA**

Dear Mr. Holter:

In approximately three weeks BNSF will be filing with the Surface Transportation Board (STB) a Notice of Exemption seeking authority to abandon or discontinue service of a 1.56-mile rail line beginning at Milepost 0.59 and ending at Milepost 2.15 in Tacoma, Washington. The line traverses United States Postal ZIP Code 98402 in Pierce County, WA. Enclosed is the historic report describing the proposed action and any expected historic effects, as well as a map of the area of potential affect.

We are providing this report so that you may review the information that will form the basis for the STB's independent historic analysis of this proceeding. If any of the information is misleading or incorrect, if you believe that pertinent information is missing, or if you have any questions about the STB's environmental review process, please contact the Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA), Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20423-0001, telephone (202) 245-0295, and refer to the above docket number. Because the applicable statutes and regulations impose stringent deadlines for processing this action, your written comments to SEA, with a copy to BNSF, would be appreciated within three weeks.

Your comments will be considered by the STB in evaluating the historic preservation impacts of the contemplated action. If there are any questions concerning these reports, please contact Susan Odom at 817-352-6432 or [susan.odom@bnsf.com](mailto:susan.odom@bnsf.com), or me at 817-352-3394 or [kristy.clark@bnsf.com](mailto:kristy.clark@bnsf.com).

Sincerely,

Kristy D. Clark  
General Attorney

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817-352-6432



August 21, 2009

Chuck Kleeberg  
Director  
Pierce County Planning and Land Services  
2401 South 35th Street  
Tacoma, WA 98409

**Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 469X)  
BNSF Railway Company – Abandonment Exemption – Tacoma, Pierce County, WA**

Dear Mr. Kleeberg:

In approximately three weeks BNSF will be filing with the Surface Transportation Board (STB) a Notice of Exemption seeking authority to abandon or discontinue service of a 1.56-mile rail line beginning at Milepost 0.59 and ending at Milepost 2.15 in Tacoma, Washington. The line traverses United States Postal ZIP Code 98402 in Pierce County, WA. Enclosed is the environmental report describing the proposed action and any expected environmental effects, as well as a map of the affected area.

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Sincerely,

Kristy D. Clark  
General Attorney

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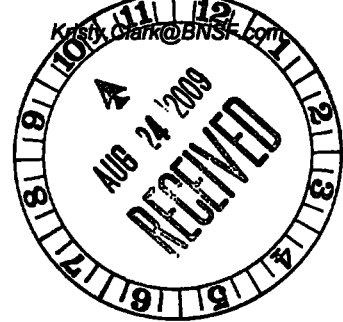
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August 21, 2009

Peter Huffman  
Manager Planning Division  
City of Tacoma Community and Economic Development  
747 Market Street  
Tacoma, WA 98402

**Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 469X)**  
**BNSF Railway Company – Abandonment Exemption – Tacoma, Pierce County, WA**

Dear Mr. Huffman:

In approximately three weeks BNSF will be filing with the Surface Transportation Board (STB) a Notice of Exemption seeking authority to abandon or discontinue service of a 1.56-mile rail line beginning at Milepost 0.59 and ending at Milepost 2.15 in Tacoma, Washington. The line traverses United States Postal ZIP Code 98402 in Pierce County, WA. Enclosed is the environmental report describing the proposed action and any expected environmental effects, as well as a map of the affected area.

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General Attorney

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August 21, 2009

William Schurger  
District Manager  
Bureau of Land Management - Spokane District Office  
915 North Walla Walla  
Wenatchee, WA 98801

**Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 469X)**  
**BNSF Railway Company – Abandonment Exemption – Tacoma, Pierce County, WA**

Dear Mr. Schurger:

In approximately three weeks BNSF will be filing with the Surface Transportation Board (STB) a Notice of Exemption seeking authority to abandon or discontinue service of a 1.56-mile rail line beginning at Milepost 0.59 and ending at Milepost 2.15 in Tacoma, Washington. The line traverses United States Postal ZIP Code 98402 in Pierce County, WA. Enclosed is the environmental report describing the proposed action and any expected environmental effects, as well as a map of the affected area.

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General Attorney

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Kristy.Clark@BNSF.com

August 21, 2009

Barbara Rice  
Program Leader Rivers Trails  
Pacific West Region  
1111 Jackson Street, Suite 700  
Oakland, CA 94607



Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 469X)  
BNSF Railway Company – Abandonment Exemption – Tacoma, Pierce County, WA

Dear Ms. Rice:

In approximately three weeks BNSF will be filing with the Surface Transportation Board (STB) a Notice of Exemption seeking authority to abandon or discontinue service of a 1.56-mile rail line beginning at Milepost 0.59 and ending at Milepost 2.15 in Tacoma, Washington. The line traverses United States Postal ZIP Code 98402 in Pierce County, WA. Enclosed is the environmental report describing the proposed action and any expected environmental effects, as well as a map of the affected area.

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Sincerely,

Kristy D. Clark  
General Attorney

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Fort Worth, TX 76131-2828  
817-352-3394  
817-352-2397 fax

Kristy.Clark@BNSF.com

August 21, 2009

Clifford Villa  
Assistant Regional Counsel  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 10  
1200 Sixth Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98101



**Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 469X)**  
**BNSF Railway Company – Abandonment Exemption – Tacoma, Pierce County, WA**

Dear Mr. Villa:

In approximately three weeks BNSF will be filing with the Surface Transportation Board (STB) a Notice of Exemption seeking authority to abandon or discontinue service of a 1.56-mile rail line beginning at Milepost 0.59 and ending at Milepost 2.15 in Tacoma, Washington. The line traverses United States Postal ZIP Code 98402 in Pierce County, WA. Enclosed is the environmental report describing the proposed action and any expected environmental effects, as well as a map of the affected area.

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Sincerely,

Kristy D. Clark  
General Attorney

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Kristy.Clark@BNSF.com

August 21, 2009

Gerald Shervey, P.E.  
Washington Department of Ecology  
Northwest Regional Office  
3190 160th Avenue SE  
Bellevue, WA 98008-5452



**Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 469X)**  
**BNSF Railway Company – Abandonment Exemption – Tacoma, Pierce County, WA**

Dear Mr. Shervey:

In approximately three weeks BNSF will be filing with the Surface Transportation Board (STB) a Notice of Exemption seeking authority to abandon or discontinue service of a 1.56-mile rail line beginning at Milepost 0.59 and ending at Milepost 2.15 in Tacoma, Washington. The line traverses United States Postal ZIP Code 98402 in Pierce County, WA. Enclosed is the environmental report describing the proposed action and any expected environmental effects, as well as a map of the affected area.

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Fort Worth, TX 76131-2828  
817-352-3394  
817-352-2397 fax

Kristy.Clark@BNSF.com



August 21, 2009

Penny Keys  
Shoreland & Coastal Zone Management Program  
Department of Ecology  
PO Box 47600  
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

**Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 469X)  
BNSF Railway Company – Abandonment Exemption – Tacoma, Pierce County, WA**

Dear Ms. Keys:

In approximately three weeks BNSF will be filing with the Surface Transportation Board (STB) a Notice of Exemption seeking authority to abandon or discontinue service of a 1.56-mile rail line beginning at Milepost 0.59 and ending at Milepost 2.15 in Tacoma, Washington. The line traverses United States Postal ZIP Code 98402 in Pierce County, WA. Enclosed is the environmental report describing the proposed action and any expected environmental effects, as well as a map of the affected area.

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Sincerely,

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General Attorney

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General Attorney

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Fort Worth, TX 76131-2828  
817-352-3394  
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Kristy.Clark@BNSF.com



August 21, 2009

Mr. Brad Duncan  
State Conservationist  
USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service  
316 West Boone Avenue, Suite 450  
Spokane, WA 99201

**Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 469X)**  
**BNSF Railway Company – Abandonment Exemption – Tacoma, Pierce County, WA**

Dear Brad:

In approximately three weeks BNSF will be filing with the Surface Transportation Board (STB) a Notice of Exemption seeking authority to abandon or discontinue service of a 1.56-mile rail line beginning at Milepost 0.59 and ending at Milepost 2.15 in Tacoma, Washington. The line traverses United States Postal ZIP Code 98402 in Pierce County, WA. Enclosed is the environmental report describing the proposed action and any expected environmental effects, as well as a map of the affected area.

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Sincerely,

Kristy D. Clark  
General Attorney

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Kristy.Clark@BNSF.com



August 21, 2009

Paul Rogers  
District Conservationist  
NRCS - USDA Puyallup Service Center  
1011 East Main, Suite 106  
Puyallup, WA 98372-6768

**Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 469X)  
BNSF Railway Company – Abandonment Exemption – Tacoma, Pierce County, WA**

Dear Mr. Rogers:

In approximately three weeks BNSF will be filing with the Surface Transportation Board (STB) a Notice of Exemption seeking authority to abandon or discontinue service of a 1.56-mile rail line beginning at Milepost 0.59 and ending at Milepost 2.15 in Tacoma, Washington. The line traverses United States Postal ZIP Code 98402 in Pierce County, WA. Enclosed is the environmental report describing the proposed action and any expected environmental effects, as well as a map of the affected area.

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Sincerely,

Kristy D. Clark  
General Attorney

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Kristy.Clark@BNSF.com



August 21, 2009

Muffy Walker  
Seattle Branch Chief  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (CENWS-PA)  
P.O. Box 3755  
Seattle, WA 98124-3755

**Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 469X)  
BNSF Railway Company – Abandonment Exemption – Tacoma, Pierce County, WA**

Dear Ms. Walker:

In approximately three weeks BNSF will be filing with the Surface Transportation Board (STB) a Notice of Exemption seeking authority to abandon or discontinue service of a 1.56-mile rail line beginning at Milepost 0.59 and ending at Milepost 2.15 in Tacoma, Washington. The line traverses United States Postal ZIP Code 98402 in Pierce County, WA. Enclosed is the environmental report describing the proposed action and any expected environmental effects, as well as a map of the affected area.

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Kristy.Clark@BNSF.com



August 21, 2009

Director  
Regional Director  
US Fish and Wildlife Service - Region 1  
911 Northeast 11th Avenue  
Portland, OR 97232-4181

**Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 469X)**  
**BNSF Railway Company – Abandonment Exemption – Tacoma, Pierce County, WA**

Dear Director:

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Kristy.Clark@BNSF.com

August 21, 2009

Larry Fisher  
Area Habitat Biologist  
State of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
16018 Mill Creek Boulevard  
Mill Creek, WA 98012



**Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 469X)**  
**BNSF Railway Company – Abandonment Exemption – Tacoma, Pierce County, WA**

Dear Mr. Fisher:

In approximately three weeks BNSF will be filing with the Surface Transportation Board (STB) a Notice of Exemption seeking authority to abandon or discontinue service of a 1.56-mile rail line beginning at Milepost 0.59 and ending at Milepost 2.15 in Tacoma, Washington. The line traverses United States Postal ZIP Code 98402 in Pierce County, WA. Enclosed is the environmental report describing the proposed action and any expected environmental effects, as well as a map of the affected area.

We are providing these reports so that you may review the information that will form the basis for the STB's independent environmental analysis of this proceeding. If any of the information is misleading or incorrect, if you believe that pertinent information is missing, or if you have any questions about the STB's environmental review process, please contact the Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA), Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20423-0001, telephone (202) 245-0295, and refer to the above docket number. Because the applicable statutes and regulations impose stringent deadlines for processing this action, your written comments to SEA, with a copy to BNSF, would be appreciated within three weeks.

Your comments will be considered by the STB in evaluating the environmental impacts of the contemplated action. If there are any questions concerning these reports, please contact Susan Odom at 817-352-6432 or [susan.odom@bnsf.com](mailto:susan.odom@bnsf.com), or me at 817-352-3394 or [kristy.clark@bnsf.com](mailto:kristy.clark@bnsf.com).

Sincerely,

Kristy D. Clark  
General Attorney

KDC/so

Enclosure as stated

**ENTERED**  
**Office of Proceedings**

**AUG 24 2009**

Part of  
Public Record



Kristy D. Clark  
General Attorney

BNSF Railway Company  
PO Box 961039  
Fort Worth, TX 76161  
2500 Lou Menk Drive – AOB-3  
Fort Worth, TX 76131-2828  
817-352-3394  
817-352-2397 fax

Kristy.Clark@BNSF.com

August 21, 2009

Charles Natsuhara  
Area Soils Scientist  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
1011 East Main, Suite 106  
Puyallup, WA 98372



**Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 469X)**  
**BNSF Railway Company – Abandonment Exemption – Tacoma, Pierce County, WA**

Dear Mr. Mr. Natsuhara:

In approximately three weeks BNSF will be filing with the Surface Transportation Board (STB) a Notice of Exemption seeking authority to abandon or discontinue service of a 1.56-mile rail line beginning at Milepost 0.59 and ending at Milepost 2.15 in Tacoma, Washington. The line traverses United States Postal ZIP Code 98402 in Pierce County, WA. Enclosed is the environmental report describing the proposed action and any expected environmental effects, as well as a map of the affected area.

We are providing these reports so that you may review the information that will form the basis for the STB's independent environmental analysis of this proceeding. If any of the information is misleading or incorrect, if you believe that pertinent information is missing, or if you have any questions about the STB's environmental review process, please contact the Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA), Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20423-0001, telephone (202) 245-0295, and refer to the above docket number. Because the applicable statutes and regulations impose stringent deadlines for processing this action, your written comments to SEA, with a copy to BNSF, would be appreciated within three weeks.

Your comments will be considered by the STB in evaluating the environmental impacts of the contemplated action. If there are any questions concerning these reports, please contact Susan Odom at 817-352-6432 or [susan.odom@bnsf.com](mailto:susan.odom@bnsf.com), or me at 817-352-3394 or [kristy.clark@bnsf.com](mailto:kristy.clark@bnsf.com).

Sincerely,

Kristy D. Clark  
General Attorney

KDC/so

Enclosure as stated

ENTERED  
Office of Proceedings

AUG 24 2009

Part of  
Public Record

**BEFORE THE  
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**



**BNSF RAILWAY COMPANY                    )**  
**ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION                )**  
**IN PIERCE COUNTY, WASHINGTON        )**

**DOCKET NO. AB-6**  
**(SUB-NO. 469X)**

---

**ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT**

---

**BNSF RAILWAY COMPANY**  
2650 Lou Menk Drive  
P.O. Box 96157  
Fort Worth, TX 76161-0057

**Kristy D. Clark**  
General Attorney  
BNSF Railway Company  
2500 Lou Menk Drive, AOB-3  
Fort Worth, Texas 76131

**Service Date: August 24, 2009**

**ENTERED**  
**Office of Proceedings**

**AUG 24 2009**

**Part of  
Public Record**



## **ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT**

### **(49 C.F.R. § 1105.7)**

***(1) Proposed Action and Alternatives. Describe the proposed action, including commodities transported, the planned disposition (if any) of any rail line and other structures that may be involved, and any possible changes in current operations or maintenance practices. Also describe any reasonable alternatives to the proposed action. Include a readable, detailed map and drawings clearly delineating the project.***

BNSF Railway Company ("BNSF") proposes to abandon the 1.56-mile rail line located between Milepost 0.59 and Milepost 2.15 in Tacoma, Pierce County, Washington (the "Line"). A map of the project area is attached as Exhibit A.

BNSF has no current plans to salvage the track and ties. The Line between Milepost 0.59 and Milepost 1.11 will be retained by BNSF to provide access to BNSF main line and drainage facilities, as well as telecom and fiber optic lines in the area. The Line between Milepost 1.11 and Milepost 1.95 will in the future be disposed of through sale and/or donation. The Line between Milepost 1.95 and Milepost 2.15 will be sold to Sound Transit for its commuter rail operations.

***(2) Transportation System Describe the effect of the proposed action on regional or local transportation systems and patterns. Estimate the amount of traffic (passenger or freight) that will be diverted to other transportation systems or modes as a result of the proposed action.***

There will be no passenger or freight traffic diverted to other transportation systems as a result of the proposed abandonment. There has been no local traffic on the Line for more than five years and no overhead traffic on the Line for more than 18 years.

***(3) Land Use***

***(i) Based on consultation with local and/or regional planning agencies and/or review of the official planning documents prepared by such agencies,***

***state whether the proposed action is consistent with existing land use plans. Describe any inconsistencies.***

The proposed action is consistent with existing land use plans. BNSF contacted the City of Tacoma Planning Commission and the Pierce County Department of Planning and Land Services concerning the proposed abandonment.

City of Tacoma Planning Division Manager Peter Huffman replied in a letter dated July 16, 2009, outlining various potential uses for the subject corridor that fit into the City of Tacoma's Comprehensive Plan. Potential uses include trail, alternative transportation (bicycle, pedestrian) and a linear urban park. Mr. Huffman summarizes his letter by stating, "Again, we support the proposed abandonment of the Prairie Line and are encouraged by the development potential and opportunities the rail corridor may bring forward to advance our planning for additional pedestrian and bicycle connections and enhanced recreational activities in the downtown." [A copy of the letter is attached as Exhibit B.]

Pierce County Department of Planning and Land Services Director Chuck Kleeberg responded in a letter dated July 9, 2009, "The proposed abandonment is within the jurisdiction of the City of Tacoma, and they would have the authority to make a determination if the proposed abandonment is consistent with the existing land use plans. Please contact the City..." [A copy of the letter is attached as Exhibit C.]

***(ii) Based on consultation with the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, state the effect of the proposed action on any prime agriculture land.***

Brad Duncan, Assistant State Soil Scientist with Natural Resources Conservation

Service Washington State, stated in email dated July 7, 2009, "We do not have any soils data for City of Tacoma and there is no agricultural land in the project area." [A copy of the email is attached as Exhibit D.]

Charles Natsuhara, Area Resource Soil Scientist with Natural Resources Conservation Service in Puyallup, Washington also concludes, "Since the proposed abandonment is entirely within urban development the proposed abandonment will have no effect on any prime agricultural or other important farmlands." [A copy of the Mr. Natsuhara's letter is attached as Exhibit E.]

***(iii) If any action affects land or water uses within a designated coastal zone, include the coastal zone information required by § 1105.9.***

The proposed abandonment is located within a designated coastal zone. By letter dated June 25, 2009, BNSF contacted Washington Department of Ecology Shoreland and Coastal Zone Management Program. As of the date of this Environmental Report, the Department has not responded to our inquiry. [A copy of the June 25 letter is attached as Exhibit F.]

***(iv) If the proposed action is an abandonment, state whether or not the right-of-way is suitable for alternative public use under 49 U.S.C. § 10905 and explain why.***

The right of way is suitable for alternative public uses. In letter dated July 16, 2009, City of Tacoma Planning Division Manager, Peter Huffman states, "The strategic location of the rail corridor and its development potential are fully recognized and vividly envisioned in the [City's] Comprehensive Plan."

"Specifically, the Downtown Element of the Comprehensive Plan calls for the

designation and development of the Prairie Line rail corridor as an active, multi-purpose trail that is fully integrated with the surrounding development..." Further, the "corridor has been identified as a planned trail in the citywide nonmotorized transportation network...Moreover, the...corridor could also be developed into a linear urban park, reconnecting the downtown with the waterfront..." A copy of the City's Comprehensive Plan can be viewed at [www.cityoftacoma.org/planning](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/planning) by clicking on "Comprehensive Plan." [A copy of the letter is attached as Exhibit B.]

**(4) Energy**

**(i) *Describe the effect of the proposed action on transportation of energy resources.***

The proposed abandonment will have no effect on the transportation of energy resources.

**(ii) *Describe the effect of the proposed action on recyclable commodities.***

The proposed abandonment will not adversely affect movement or recovery of recyclable commodities.

**(iii) *State whether the proposed action will result in an increase or decrease in overall energy efficiency and explain why.***

The proposed action will not result in an increase or decrease in overall energy efficiency as there has been no traffic on the line for more than two years.

**(iv) *If the proposed action will cause diversions from rail to motor carriage of more than:***

**(A) *1,000 rail carloads a year, or***

**(B) *an average of 50 rail carloads per mile per year for any part of***

*the affected line, quantify the resulting net change in the energy consumption and show the data and methodology used to arrive at the figure given.*

The proposed abandonment will not result in a diversion of rail to motor carriage.

**(5) Air**

**(i) *If the proposed action will result in either:***

***(A) an increase in rail traffic of at least 100 percent (measured in gross ton miles annually) or an increase of at least eight trains a day on any segment of the line affected by the proposal, or***

***(B) an increase in rail yard activity of at least 100 percent (measured by carload activity), or***

***(C) an average increase in truck traffic of more than 10 percent of the average daily traffic or 50 vehicles a day on any affected road segment, quantify the anticipated effect on air emissions.***

The proposed action will not result in meeting or exceeding the specified thresholds for increased rail or truck traffic as outlined in (i) (A), (B) or (C) above.

**(ii) *If the proposed action affects a class I or nonattainment area under the Clean Air Act, and will result in either:***

***(A) an increase in rail traffic of at least 50 percent (measured in gross ton miles annually) or an increase of at least three trains a day on any segment of rail line,***

***(B) an increase in rail yard activity of at least 20 percent (measured by carload activity), or***

***(C) an average increase in truck traffic of more than 10 percent of the average daily traffic or 50 vehicles a day on a given road segment, then state whether any expected increased emissions are within the parameters established by State Implementation Plan. However, for a rail construction under 49 U.S.C. § 10901 (or 49 U.S.C. § 10505) or a case involving the reinstitution of service over a previously abandoned line, only the three train a day threshold in this item shall apply.***

The proposed action will not result in meeting or exceeding the specified

thresholds in (ii) (A), (B) or (C) above.

***(iii) If the transportation of ozone depleting materials (such as nitrogen oxide and Freon) is contemplated, identify: the materials and quantity; the frequency of service; safety practices (including any speed restrictions); the applicant's safety record (to the extent available) on derailments, accidents and spills; contingency plans to deal with accidental spills; and the likelihood of an accidental release of ozone depleting materials in the event of a collision or derailment.***

The proposed abandonment will not affect the transportation of ozone depleting materials.

***(6) Noise If any of the thresholds identified in item (5) (i) of this section are surpassed, state whether the proposed action will cause:***

***(i) an incremental increase in noise levels of three decibels Ldn or more; or***

***(ii) an increase to a noise level of 65 decibels Ldn or greater. If so, identify sensitive receptors (e.g. schools, libraries, hospitals, residences, retirement communities and nursing homes) in the project area and quantify the noise increase for these receptors if the thresholds are surpassed.***

Not Applicable.

***(7) Safety***

***(i) Describe any effects of the proposed action on public health and safety (including vehicle delay time at railroad crossings).***

This abandonment should have no adverse effect on health or public safety.

There are five active public at-grade crossings, two pedestrian at-grade crossings, one public overpass and one private overpass crossings on the Line.

***(ii) If hazardous materials are expected to be transported, identify: the materials and quantity; the frequency of service; whether chemicals are being transported that, if mixed, could react to form more hazardous compounds; safety practices (including any speed restrictions); the applicant's safety record (to the extent available) on derailments, accidents and hazardous spills; the contingency plans to deal with accidental spills, and the likelihood of and accidental release of hazardous materials.***

The abandonment will not result in the transportation of hazardous materials.

***(iii) If there are any known hazardous waste sites or sites where there have been known hazardous material spills on the right-of-way, identify the location of those sites and the types of hazardous materials involved.***

There are no known hazardous waste sites or sites where there have been known hazardous material spills on the right-of-way.

**(8) Biological Resources**

***(i) Based on consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, state whether the proposed action is likely to adversely affect endangered or threatened species or areas designated as a critical habitat, and if so, describe the effects.***

By letters dated June 25, 2009, BNSF contacted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Region 1 and the State of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife in reference to this proposed abandonment. As of the date of this Environmental Report, neither agency has responded to our inquiries. [Copies of the letters are attached as Exhibit G.]

***(ii) State whether wildlife sanctuaries or refuges, National or State parks or forests will be affected, and describe any effects.***

By email dated July 16, 2009, William Schurger, Realty Specialist for the Bureau of Land Management Wenatchee Field Office, stated "the Bureau of Land Management has no lands or interests in the area of the proposed abandonment. Therefore, we have no information or comments to offer on this action." [Copy of Mr. Schurger's email is attached as Exhibit H.]

By letter dated June 25, 2009, BNSF also contact the National Park Service Program Leader Rivers Trails and Conservation Assistance Program for the

Pacific West Region in reference to this proposed abandonment. As of the date of this Environmental Report, BNSF has not received a response to our inquiry.

[Copy of the June 25 letter is attached as Exhibit I.]

**(9) Water**

***(i) Based on consultation with State water quality officials, state whether the proposed action is consistent with applicable Federal, State or local water quality standards. Describe any inconsistencies.***

By letters dated June 25, 2009, BNSF contacted the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Region 10 and the Washington Department of Ecology in reference to this proposed abandonment. As of the date of this Environmental Report, neither agency has responded to our inquiries. [Copies of the June 25 letters are attached as Exhibit J.]

***(ii) Based on consultation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, state whether permits under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1344) are required for the proposed action and whether any designated wetlands or 100-year flood plains will be affected. Describe the effects.***

By letter dated June 25, 2009, BNSF contacted the Seattle Branch of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in reference to this proposed abandonment. As of the date of this Environmental Report, the Corps has not responded to our inquiry. [A copy of the June 25 letter is attached as Exhibit K.]

***(iii) State whether permits under Section 402 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1342) are required for the proposed action. (Applicants should contact the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency or the state environmental protection or equivalent agency if they are unsure whether such permits are required).***

By letters dated June 25, 2009, BNSF contacted the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Region 10 and the Washington Department of Ecology in



reference to this proposed abandonment. As of the date of this Environmental Report, neither agency has responded to our inquiries. [Copies of the June 25 letters are attached as Exhibit J.]

***(10) Proposed Mitigation. Describe any actions that are proposed to mitigate adverse environmental impacts, indicating why the proposed mitigation is appropriate.***

BNSF does not expect any adverse environmental impact from the proposed abandonment and, therefore, sees no need for any mitigating actions. BNSF will, of course, consult (as required) with any recipients of this Environmental Report regarding appropriate mitigation actions and will comply with those mitigation actions required by the Board.

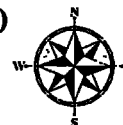
# EXHIBIT A



**Lakeview Subdivision "Prairie Line"**  
**Pierce County, Washington**

**BNSF Line Segment 400**  
**Milepost 0.59 to Milepost 2.15**

**STB Docket No.**  
**AB-6 (Sub-No. 469X)**



**Base map – United States Geological Survey**  
**Tacoma South and Tacoma North quadrangles**  
**7.5-minute series**

**©1961**  
**Revised 1994**  
**DMA 1578 III and IV NW-Series V891**

**EXHIBIT B**



**City of Tacoma  
Community and Economic Development Department**

July 16, 2009

Ms. Susan Odom  
Manager Network Strategy  
BNSF Network Development  
2500 Lou Menk Drive – AOB-3  
Fort Worth, Texas 76131

RE: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 469X) – Abandonment of BNSF's Lakeview Subdivision  
("Prairie Line") in Pierce County, Washington

Dear Ms. Odom:

Thank you for the letter of June 25, 2009, to Mr. Scott Morris, Chair of the Tacoma Planning Commission, and for including the Planning Commission in the environmental review process for the proposed abandonment of the Prairie Line.

Please be advised that the Planning Commission does not have review authority over the environmental assessment of the proposal. Nonetheless, the Planning Commission is an advisory body to the City Council on land use and planning matters, including the development and amendment of the City of Tacoma's Comprehensive Plan. From staff's perspective, we would like to offer that the proposed abandonment of the Prairie Line is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.

The Prairie Line rail corridor is located within the Union Station Historic District in Downtown Tacoma. It connects the University of Washington Tacoma, downtown Brewery District and the City's nonmotorized Water Ditch Trail at South Tacoma Way with the Tacoma Art Museum and the emerging downtown waterfront neighborhood. The strategic location of the rail corridor and its development potential are fully recognized and vividly envisioned in the Comprehensive Plan.

Specifically, the Downtown Element of the Comprehensive Plan calls for the designation and development of the Prairie Line rail corridor as an active, multi-purpose trail that is fully integrated with the surrounding development (Downtown Element, p. DT-49). It is also the City's policy to recognize, encourage, support and prioritize the development of potential corridors, such as the Prairie Line, to enhance the City's bicycle and pedestrian system (Transportation Element, policies T-NT-1 and T-NT-2, p. T-7). In fact, the Prairie Line rail corridor has been identified as a planned trail in the citywide nonmotorized transportation network (Transportation Element, Figure 2, p. T-19). Moreover, the Prairie Line rail corridor could also be developed into a linear urban park, reconnecting the downtown with the waterfront,

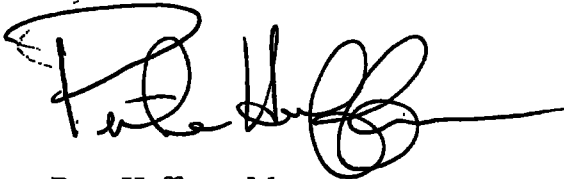
Ms. Susan Odom, BNSF  
Abandonment of Prairie Line  
July 16, 2009  
Page 2 of 2

as articulated in the Open Space Habitat and Recreation Element (policies OS-T-1, OS-MUC-8 and OS-MUC-9, p. OS-11~13). (To view the above-referenced policies and provisions of the various elements of the Comprehensive Plan or the complete text of the respective elements, please visit [www.cityoftacoma.org/planning](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/planning) and click on "Comprehensive Plan.")

Again, we support the proposed abandonment of the Prairie Line and are encouraged by the development potential and opportunities the rail corridor may bring forward to advance our planning for additional pedestrian and bicycle connections and enhanced recreational activities in the downtown.

If you have any questions, please contact Lihuang Wung, Community and Economic Development Department (253-591-5682 or [lwung@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:lwung@cityoftacoma.org)), or Dana Brown, Public Works Department (253-591-5718 or [dbrown2@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:dbrown2@cityoftacoma.org)).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Huffman', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Peter Huffman, Manager  
Planning Division

PH:lw

- c. Ryan Petty, Director, Community and Economic Development Department  
Dick McKinley, Director, Public Works Department



## Pierce County

Department of Planning and Land Services

### EXHIBIT C

**CHUCK KLEEBERG**  
Director

2401 South 35th Street  
Tacoma, Washington 98409-7460  
(253) 798-7210 • FAX (253) 798-7425

July 9, 2009

Susan L. Odom  
Manager Network Strategy  
BNSF Railway Company  
2500 Lou Menk Drive – AOB-3  
Fort Worth, TX 76131

RE: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 469X) - Abandonment Exemption  
Milepost 0.59 to Milepost 2.15 on BNSF Railroad Company's Lakeview Subdivision  
in Pierce County, Washington

Dear Ms. Odom:

The purpose of this letter is to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated June 25, 2009, regarding the above-abandonment of a portion of railway in the ownership of BNSF.

The proposed abandonment is within the jurisdiction of the City of Tacoma, and they would have the authority to make a determination if the proposed abandonment is consistent with the existing land use plans. Please contact the City for their comments and questions.

Sincerely,



Chuck Kleeberg, Director  
Planning and Land Services

CK/VD/cia

c: Pat McCarthy, Pierce County Executive  
Roger Bush, Chairman, Pierce County Council  
Denise Dyer, Director, Pierce County Economic Development



**Odom, Susan**

**EXHIBIT D**

---

**From:** Duncan, Brad - Spokane, WA [Brad.Duncan@wa.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 07, 2009 9:14 AM  
**To:** Odom, Susan  
**Subject:** STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 469X) - Abandonment Exemption, Milepost 0.59 to Milepost 2.15

Susan,

We received your request to review if this project will have any effect on prime agricultural lands. We do not have any soils data for City of Tacoma and there is no agricultural land in project area.

thanks, Brad

**Brad Duncan**  
Assistant State Soil Scientist  
NRCS Washington State  
316 W. Boone Ave., Suite 450  
Spokane, Wa 99201-2348  
509-323-2982  
Fax: 509-323-2979

[Brad.Duncan@wa.usda.gov](mailto:Brad.Duncan@wa.usda.gov)

7/7/2009

**EXHIBIT E**  
**United States Department of Agriculture**



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
1011 East Main, Suite 106  
Puyallup, WA 98372  
(253) 845-9272, Fax (253) 445-9934

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July 7, 2009

Susan L. Odom  
Manager Network Strategy  
BNSF Railway Company  
2500 Lou Menk Drive – AOB-3  
Fort Worth, TX 76131

Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 469X) – Abandonment Exemption  
Milepost 0.59 to Milepost 2.15 on BNSF Railway Company's  
Lakeview Subdivision in Pierce County, WA

Dear Ms. Odom:

This letter is in response to your request dated June 25, 2009 sent to Paul Rogers, District Conservationist. I have reviewed the area of the proposed railroad line abandonment. Since the proposed abandonment is entirely within urban development the proposed abandonment will have no effect on any prime agricultural or other important farmlands.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles Natsuhara".

Charles Natsuhara  
Area Resource Soil Scientist

**EXHIBIT F**



**Susan Odom**  
Manager Network Strategy  
BNSF Network Development

**BNSF Railway Company**  
2500 Lou Menk Drive – AOB-3  
Fort Worth, Texas 76131  
tel 817-352-6432  
fax 817-352-7154  
email [susan.odom@bnsf.com](mailto:susan.odom@bnsf.com)

June 25, 2009

Ms. Penny Keys  
Shoreland and Coastal Zone Management Program  
Department of Ecology  
PO Box 47600  
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

**Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 469X) – Abandonment Exemption  
Milepost 0.59 to Milepost 2.15 on BNSF Railway Company's Lakeview Subdivision  
in Pierce County, Washington**

Dear Ms. Keys:

BNSF Railway Company ("BNSF") anticipates filing, within the next 2 months, a Notice of Exemption seeking Surface Transportation Board ("STB") authority in the above-referenced docket to abandon 1.56 miles of railroad line between Milepost 0.59 and Milepost 2.15 on BNSF's Lakeview Subdivision in Pierce County, Washington.

As part of the requisite environmental report, BNSF needs to know: 1) whether or not this action will be consistent with Federal, State or local water quality standards, and 2) whether or not Section 402 and/or National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System ("NPDES") permits are required for performance of the salvage activity described on the attached sheet. Please note: BNSF anticipates the proposed abandonment should not disturb more than one (1) acre of land.

For your reference I have attached a map of the subject railroad line, as well as information on BNSF's salvage process as it relates to this project.

Please provide your assessment and comments to me at the address above, if at all possible, by August 15, 2009. You may contact me by email or phone with any questions or concerns. Thank you in advance for your time and contribution.

Sincerely,

Susan L. Odom  
Manager Network Strategy

Attachments as stated

cc via email: Kristy Clark – BNSF – [kristy.clark@bnsf.com](mailto:kristy.clark@bnsf.com)  
Karl Morell – Ball Janik LLP – [kmorell@bjllp.com](mailto:kmorell@bjllp.com)  
Dennis Eytcheson – BNSF – [dennis.eytcheson@bnsf.com](mailto:dennis.eytcheson@bnsf.com)



**EXHIBIT G**



**Susan Odom**  
Manager Network Strategy  
BNSF Network Development

**BNSF Railway Company**  
2500 Lou Mank Drive – AOB-3  
Fort Worth, Texas 76131  
tel 817-352-8432  
fax 817-352-7154  
email [susan.odom@bnsf.com](mailto:susan.odom@bnsf.com)

June 25, 2009

Regional Director  
US Fish and Wildlife Service - Region 1  
911 Northeast 11th Avenue  
Portland, OR 97232-4181

**Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 469X) – Abandonment Exemption  
Milepost 0.59 to Milepost 2.15 on BNSF Railway Company's Lakeview Subdivision  
in Pierce County, Washington**

Dear Director:

BNSF Railway Company ("BNSF") anticipates filing, within the next 2 months, a Notice of Exemption seeking Surface Transportation Board ("STB") authority in the above-referenced docket to abandon 1.56 miles of railroad line between Milepost 0.59 and Milepost 2.15 on BNSF's Lakeview Subdivision in Pierce County, Washington.

As part of the requisite environmental report, BNSF needs to know: 1) whether or not there are any endangered or threatened species, wildlife sanctuaries or refuges, or areas designated as critical habitat adjacent to or near the line, and 2) if so, what effects the proposed action may have on same.

For your reference I have attached a map of the subject railroad line, a species and habitat list from the USFWS Web site, as well as information on BNSF's salvage process as it relates to this project.

Please provide your assessment and comments to me at the address above, if at all possible, by August 15, 2009. You may contact me by email or phone with any questions or concerns. Thank you in advance for your time and contribution.

Sincerely,

Susan L. Odom  
Manager Network Strategy

Attachments as stated

cc via email: Kristy Clark – BNSF – [kristy.clark@bnsf.com](mailto:kristy.clark@bnsf.com)  
Karl Morell – Ball Janik LLP – [kmorell@bjllp.com](mailto:kmorell@bjllp.com)  
Dennis Eytcheson – BNSF – [dennis.eytcheson@bnsf.com](mailto:dennis.eytcheson@bnsf.com)



**Susan Odom**  
Manager Network Strategy  
BNSF Network Development

**BNSF Railway Company**  
2500 Lou Menk Drive – AOB-3  
Fort Worth, Texas 76131  
tel 817-352-6432  
fax 817-352-7154  
email [susan.odom@bnsf.com](mailto:susan.odom@bnsf.com)

June 25, 2009

Mr. Larry Fisher  
Area Habitat Biologist  
State of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
16018 Mill Creek Boulevard  
Mill Creek, WA 98012

**Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 469X) – Abandonment Exemption  
Milepost 0.59 to Milepost 2.15 on BNSF Railway Company's Lakeview Subdivision  
in Pierce County, Washington**

Dear Mr. Fisher:

BNSF Railway Company ("BNSF") anticipates filing, within the next 2 months, a Notice of Exemption seeking Surface Transportation Board ("STB") authority in the above-referenced docket to abandon 1.56 miles of railroad line between Milepost 0.59 and Milepost 2.15 on BNSF's Lakeview Subdivision in Pierce County, Washington.

As part of the requisite environmental report, BNSF needs to know: 1) whether or not there are any endangered or threatened species, wildlife sanctuaries or refuges, or areas designated as critical habitat adjacent to or near the line, and 2) if so, what effects the proposed action may have on same.

For your reference I have attached a map of the subject railroad line, a species and habitat list from the USFWS Web site, as well as information on BNSF's salvage process as it relates to this project.

Please provide your assessment and comments to me at the address above, if at all possible, by August 15, 2009. You may contact me by email or phone with any questions or concerns. Thank you in advance for your time and contribution.

Sincerely,

Susan L. Odom  
Manager Network Strategy

Attachments as stated

cc via email: Kristy Clark – BNSF – [kristy.clark@bnsf.com](mailto:kristy.clark@bnsf.com)  
Karl Morell – Ball Janik LLP – [kmorell@bjllp.com](mailto:kmorell@bjllp.com)  
Dennis Eytcheson – BNSF – [dennis.eytcheson@bnsf.com](mailto:dennis.eytcheson@bnsf.com)

## EXHIBIT H

**Odom, Susan**

---

**From:** William\_Schurger@or.blm.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 16, 2009 6:26 PM  
**To:** Odom, Susan  
**Subject:** STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 469X) - Abandonment Exemption for Lakeview Subdivision

Dear Ms. Odom,

In response to your letter of June 25, 2009, the Bureau of Land Management has no lands or interests in the area of the proposed abandonment. Therefore, we have no information or comments to offer on this action.

Sincerely,

William Schurger  
Realty Specialist  
Bureau of Land Management  
Wenatchee Field Office  
509/665-2100

EXHIBIT I



Susan Odom  
Manager Network Strategy  
BNSF Network Development

**BNSF Railway Company**  
2500 Lou Menk Drive – AOB-3  
Fort Worth, Texas 76131  
tel 817-352-8432  
fax 817-352-7154  
email [susan.odom@bnsf.com](mailto:susan.odom@bnsf.com)

June 25, 2009

NPS

Ms. Barbara Rice  
Program Leader Rivers Trails & Conservation Assistance Program  
Pacific West Region  
1111 Jackson Street, Suite 700  
Oakland, CA 94607

**Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 469X) – Abandonment Exemption  
Milepost 0.59 to Milepost 2.15 on BNSF Railway Company's Lakeview Subdivision  
in Pierce County, Washington**

Dear Ms. Rice:

BNSF Railway Company ("BNSF") anticipates filing, within the next 2 months, a Notice of Exemption seeking Surface Transportation Board ("STB") authority in the above-referenced docket to abandon 1.56 miles of railroad line between Milepost 0.59 and Milepost 2.15 on BNSF's Lakeview Subdivision in Pierce County, Washington.

As part of the requisite environmental report, BNSF needs to know: 1) whether or not there are any wildlife sanctuaries or National or State parks or forests adjacent to or near the line, and 2) if so, what effects the proposed action may have on same.

For your reference I have attached a map of the subject railroad line, as well as information on BNSF's salvage process as it relates to this project.

Please provide your assessment and comments to me at the address above, if at all possible, by August 15, 2009. You may contact me by email or phone with any questions or concerns. Thank you in advance for your time and contribution.

Sincerely,

Susan L. Odom  
Manager Network Strategy

Attachments as stated

cc via email: Kristy Clark – BNSF – [kristy.clark@bnsf.com](mailto:kristy.clark@bnsf.com)  
Karl Morell – Ball Janik LLP – [kmorell@bjllp.com](mailto:kmorell@bjllp.com)  
Dennis Eytcheson – BNSF – [dennis.eytcheson@bnsf.com](mailto:dennis.eytcheson@bnsf.com)

**EXHIBIT J**



**Susan Odom**  
Manager Network Strategy  
BNSF Network Development

**BNSF Railway Company**  
2500 Lou Menk Drive – AOB-3  
Fort Worth, Texas 76131  
tel 817-352-6432  
fax 817-352-7154  
email [susan.odom@bnsf.com](mailto:susan.odom@bnsf.com)

June 25, 2009

Mr. Clifford Villa  
Assistant Regional Counsel  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 10  
1200 Sixth Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98101

**Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 469X) – Abandonment Exemption  
Milepost 0.59 to Milepost 2.15 on BNSF Railway Company's Lakeview Subdivision  
in Pierce County, Washington**

Dear Mr. Villa:

BNSF Railway Company ("BNSF") anticipates filing, within the next 2 months, a Notice of Exemption seeking Surface Transportation Board ("STB") authority in the above-referenced docket to abandon 1.56 miles of railroad line between Milepost 0.59 and Milepost 2.15 on BNSF's Lakeview Subdivision in Pierce County, Washington.

As part of the requisite environmental report, BNSF needs to know: 1) whether or not this action will be consistent with Federal, State or local water quality standards, and 2) whether or not Section 402 and/or National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System ("NPDES") permits are required for performance of the salvage activity described on the enclosed sheet. Please note: **BNSF anticipates the proposed abandonment should not disturb more than one (1) acre of land.**

For your reference I have attached a map of the subject railroad line, as well as information on BNSF's salvage process as it relates to this project.

Please provide your assessment and comments to me at the address above, if at all possible, by August 15, 2009. You may contact me by email or phone with any questions or concerns. Thank you in advance for your time and contribution.

Sincerely,

Susan L. Odom  
Manager Network Strategy

Attachments as stated

cc via email: Kristy Clark – BNSF – [kristy.clark@bnsf.com](mailto:kristy.clark@bnsf.com)  
Karl Morell – Ball Janik LLP – [kmorell@bjllp.com](mailto:kmorell@bjllp.com)  
Dennis Eytcheson – BNSF – [dennis.eytcheson@bnsf.com](mailto:dennis.eytcheson@bnsf.com)



Susan Odom  
Manager Network Strategy  
BNSF Network Development

**BNSF Railway Company**  
2500 Lou Menk Drive – AOB-3  
Fort Worth, Texas 76131  
tel 817-352-8432  
fax 817-352-7154  
email [susan.odom@bnsf.com](mailto:susan.odom@bnsf.com)

June 25, 2009

Mr. Gerald Shervey, P.E.  
Washington Department of Ecology  
Northwest Regional Office  
3190 160th Avenue SE  
Bellevue, WA 98008-5452

**Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 469X) – Abandonment Exemption  
Milepost 0.59 to Milepost 2.15 on BNSF Railway Company's Lakeview Subdivision  
in Pierce County, Washington**

Dear Mr. Shervey, P.E.:

BNSF Railway Company ("BNSF") anticipates filing, within the next 2 months, a Notice of Exemption seeking Surface Transportation Board ("STB") authority in the above-referenced docket to abandon 1.56 miles of railroad line between Milepost 0.59 and Milepost 2.15 on BNSF's Lakeview Subdivision in Pierce County, Washington.

As part of the requisite environmental report, BNSF needs to know: 1) whether or not this action will be consistent with Federal, State or local water quality standards, and 2) whether or not Section 402 and/or National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System ("NPDES") permits are required for performance of the salvage activity described on the attached sheet. Please note: **BNSF anticipates the proposed abandonment should not disturb more than one (1) acre of land.**

For your reference I have attached a map of the subject railroad line, as well as information on BNSF's salvage process as it relates to this project.

Please provide your assessment and comments to me at the address above, if at all possible, by August 15, 2009. You may contact me by email or phone with any questions or concerns. Thank you in advance for your time and contribution.

Sincerely,

Susan L. Odom  
Manager Network Strategy

Attachments as stated

cc via email: Kristy Clark – BNSF – [kristy.clark@bnsf.com](mailto:kristy.clark@bnsf.com)  
Karl Morell – Ball Janik LLP – [kmorell@bjllp.com](mailto:kmorell@bjllp.com)  
Dennis Eytcheson – BNSF – [dennis.eytcheson@bnsf.com](mailto:dennis.eytcheson@bnsf.com)



**EXHIBIT K**

**Susan Odom**  
Manager Network Strategy  
BNSF Network Development

**BNSF Railway Company**  
2500 Lou Menk Drive – AOB-3  
Fort Worth, Texas 76131  
tel 817-352-6432  
fax 817-352-7154  
email [susan.odom@bnsf.com](mailto:susan.odom@bnsf.com)

June 25, 2009

Ms. Muffy Walker  
Seattle Branch Chief  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (CENWS-PA)  
P.O. Box 3755  
Seattle, WA 98124-3755

**Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 469X) – Abandonment Exemption**  
**Milepost 0.59 to Milepost 2.15 on BNSF Railway Company's Lakeview Subdivision**  
**in Pierce County, Washington**

Dear Ms. Walker:

BNSF Railway Company ("BNSF") anticipates filing, within the next 2 months, a Notice of Exemption seeking Surface Transportation Board ("STB") authority in the above-referenced docket to abandon 1.56 miles of railroad line between Milepost 0.59 and Milepost 2.15 on BNSF's Lakeview Subdivision in Pierce County, Washington.

As part of the requisite environmental report, BNSF needs to know: 1) whether or not Section 404 permits will be required for the performance of salvage activity, and 2) if the proposed abandonment will affect any 100-year floodplains or any designated wetlands. In addition, if it is your determination that floodplains will be affected please furnish, if available, 8½"x11" black and white maps of each designated floodplain area. Please note: BNSF does not anticipate any potential impacts to waters of the U.S. as a result of the proposed abandonment.

For your reference I have attached a map of the subject railroad line, as well as information on BNSF's salvage process as it relates to this project.

Please provide your assessment and comments to me at the address above, if at all possible, by August 15, 2009. You may contact me by email or phone with any questions or concerns. Thank you in advance for your time and contribution.

Sincerely,

Susan L. Odom  
Manager Network Strategy

Attachments as stated

cc via email: Kristy Clark – BNSF – [kristy.clark@bnsf.com](mailto:kristy.clark@bnsf.com)  
Karl Morell – Ball Janik LLP – [kmorell@bjllp.com](mailto:kmorell@bjllp.com)  
Dennis Eytcheson – BNSF – [dennis.eytcheson@bnsf.com](mailto:dennis.eytcheson@bnsf.com)

**BEFORE THE  
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

---

<b>BNSF RAILWAY COMPANY</b>	<b>)</b>	
<b>ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION</b>	<b>)</b>	<b>DOCKET NO. AB-6</b>
<b>IN PIERCE COUNTY, WASHINGTON</b>	<b>)</b>	<b>(SUB-NO. 469X)</b>

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**HISTORIC REPORT**

---

**BNSF RAILWAY COMPANY**  
2650 Lou Menk Drive  
P.O. Box 96157  
Fort Worth, TX 76161-0057

**Kristy D. Clark**  
General Attorney  
BNSF Railway Company  
2500 Lou Menk Drive, AOB-3  
Fort Worth, Texas 76131

**Service Date: August 24, 2009**



## **HISTORIC REPORT**

### **(49 C.F.R. § 1105.8)**

***(1) Proposed Action and Alternatives. Describe the proposed action, including commodities transported, the planned disposition (if any) of any rail line and other structures that may be involved, and any possible changes in current operations or maintenance practices. Also describe any reasonable alternatives to the proposed action. Include a readable, detailed map and drawings clearly delineating the project.***

BNSF Railway Company ("BNSF") proposes to abandon the 1.56-mile rail line located between Milepost 0.59 and Milepost 2.15 in Tacoma, Pierce County, Washington (the "Line").

BNSF has no current plans to salvage the track and ties. The Line between Milepost 0.59 and Milepost 1.11 will be retained by BNSF to provide access to BNSF main line and drainage facilities, as well as telecom and fiber optic lines in the area. The Line between Milepost 1.11 and Milepost 1.95 will in the future be disposed of through sale and/or donation. The Line between Milepost 1.95 and Milepost 2.15 will be sold to Sound Transit for its commuter rail operations.

## **HISTORIC REPORT**

- 1. A U.S.G.S. topographic map (or an alternate map drawn to scale and sufficiently detailed to show buildings and other structures in the vicinity of the proposed action) showing the location of the proposed action, and the locations and approximate dimensions of railroad structures that are 50 years old or older and are part of the proposed action.***

The required topographic map is attached to this Report as Exhibit A.

- 2. A written description of the right-of-way (including approximate widths, to the extent known), and the topography and urban and/or rural characteristics of the surrounding area***

The subject Line extends approximately 1.56 miles between Milepost 0.59 and Milepost 2.15 in Tacoma, Pierce County, Washington. The right of way is generally 75 feet wide, narrowing between Commerce Street and Pacific Avenue and South 11<sup>th</sup> and South 15<sup>th</sup> streets. There are no federally granted rights of way involved.

The Line is located in a highly commercialized area of downtown Tacoma. Milepost 2.15 abuts Sound Transit commuter line right of way; Milepost 0.59 abuts BNSF main line. The Line parallels Interstate 785 north of Interstate 5 near the Port of Tacoma.

3. ***Good quality photographs (actual, photographic prints, not photocopies) of railroad structures on the property that are 50 years old or older and of the immediately surrounding area.***

There are no railroad structures 50 years old or older located on the property or in the immediately surrounding area. However, the line traverses a portion of the Union Depot Warehouse Historic District between South 17<sup>th</sup> and South 21<sup>st</sup> streets.

4. ***The date(s) of construction of the structure(s), and the date(s) and extent of any major alterations, to the extent such information is known.***

Not applicable

5. ***A brief narrative history of carrier operations in the area, and an explanation of what, if any, changes are contemplated as a result of the proposed action.***

The Tacoma Land Company, Northern Pacific Railroad Company's (NPRR) real estate subsidiary, conveyed the Line's underlying property to NPRR in 1889. Seven years later the NPRR system sold to Northern Pacific Railway Company (NP). In 1970, NP merged with Great Northern Railway Company, Pacific Coast Railroad Company and Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company to become Burlington Northern Inc. The latter changed its name to Burlington Northern Railroad Company (BNRR) in 1981. BNRR merged with The Atchison,

Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company in 1996 to become The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company, which name was changed to BNSF Railway Company in January 2005.

6. ***A brief summary of documents in the carrier's possession, such as engineering drawings, that might be useful in documenting a structure that is found to be historic.***

Documents in BNSF's possession concerning this abandonment may include alignment maps showing the right-of-way and/or station maps. These documents are too large for practical reproduction in this report, but can be furnished upon request, if they are available.

7. ***An opinion (based on readily available information in the railroad's possession) as to whether the site and/or structures meet the criteria for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (36 CFR 60.4), and whether there is a likelihood of archeological resources or any other previously unknown historic properties in the project area, and the basis for these opinions (including any consultations with the State Historic Preservation Office, local historical societies or universities).***

BNSF contacted State of Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) in reference to the proposed abandonment. By letter dated July 1, 2009 addressed to Ms. Victoria Rutson (Environmental Section Chief Surface Transportation Board), Russell Holter, DAHP's Project Compliance Reviewer stated, "We have reviewed the description of the area of potential effect (APE) for the project. We concur with the definition of the APE. We look forward to the results of the BNSF's cultural resources survey efforts, consultation with the concerned tribes, and receiving the survey report."

8. ***A description (based on readily available information in the railroad's possession) of any known prior subsurface ground disturbance or fill, environmental conditions (naturally occurring or manmade) that might affect the archeological recovery of resources (such as swampy conditions or the presence of toxic wastes), and the surrounding terrain.***

The Line was disturbed during original construction by cuts and fill and any archaeological resources that may have been located in the proposed project area would have

been affected at that time. Our records do not indicate any environmental conditions that might affect the archaeological recovery of resources.

9. ***Within 30 days of receipt of the historic report, the State Historic Preservation Officer may request the following additional information regarding specific non railroad owned properties or groups of properties immediately adjacent to the railroad right-of-way: photographs of specified properties that can be readily seen from the railroad right-of-way (or other public rights-of-way adjacent to the property) and a written description of any previously discovered archeological sites, identifying the location and type of the site (i.e. prehistoric or native American).***

If any additional information is requested, BNSF will promptly supply the necessary information.

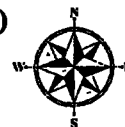
# EXHIBIT A



**Lakeview Subdivision "Prairie Line"**  
**Pierce County, Washington**

**BNSF Line Segment 400**  
**Milepost 0.59 to Milepost 2.15**

**STB Docket No.**  
**AB-6 (Sub-No. 469X)**



**Base map – United States Geological Survey**  
**Tacoma South and Tacoma North quadrangles**  
**7.5-minute series**

**©1961**  
**Revised 1994**  
**DMA 1578 III and IV NW-Series V891**

**EXHIBIT B**



**STATE OF WASHINGTON**

**DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY & HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

1063 S. Capitol Way, Suite 106 • Olympia, Washington 98501  
Mailing address: PO Box 48343 • Olympia, Washington 98504-8343  
(360) 586-3065 • Fax Number (360) 586-3067 • Website: [www.dahp.wa.gov](http://www.dahp.wa.gov)

July 1, 2009

Ms. Victoria Rutson  
Environmental Section Chief  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street S.W. Room 1110  
Washington DC 20423-0001

In future correspondence please refer to:

Log: 070109-05-STB

Property: Lakeview Subdivision abandonment (AB-6 Sub# 469X)

Re: APE Concur

Dear Ms. Rutson:

Recently, the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) was contacted by the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) on behalf of the Surface Transportation Board (STB) for the purposes of initiating consultation under the provision of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. We have reviewed the description of the area of potential effect (APE) for the project. We concur with the definition of the APE. We look forward to the results of the BNSF's cultural resources survey efforts, consultation with the concerned tribes, and receiving the survey report. We would appreciate receiving any correspondence or comments from concerned tribes or other parties that you receive as you consult under the requirements of 36CFR800.4(a)(4) and the survey report when it is available.

These comments are based on the information available at the time of this review and on behalf of the State Historic Preservation Officer in conformance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations 36CFR800. Should additional information become available, our assessment may be revised. Please note that DAHP has developed a set of cultural resource reporting guidelines. You can obtain a copy of these guidelines from our Web site. Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Russell Holter  
Project Compliance Reviewer  
(360) 586-3533  
[russell.holter@dahp.wa.gov](mailto:russell.holter@dahp.wa.gov)

Cc: Susan Odom (BNSF)



**DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY & HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

*Protect the Past. Shape the Future*

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE  
ENVIRONMENTAL AND HISTORIC  
REPORTS**

The undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of the foregoing Environmental and/or Historic Reports in STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 469X) for the Tacoma rail line (a/k/a/ Prairie Line) in Pierce County, Washington was served by first class mail on the 21st day of August, 2009 on the following:

**Ms. Victoria Rutson  
Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street S.W.  
Washington, DC 20423-0001**

---

**Russell Holter  
Project Compliance Reviewer  
Washington Department of  
Archaeology and Historic Preservation  
1063 South Capitol Way, Suite 106  
Olympia, WA 98501**

**Chuck Kleeberg  
Director  
Pierce County Planning and Land Services  
2401 South 35th Street  
Tacoma, WA 98409**

**Peter Huffman  
Manager, Planning Division  
City of Tacoma Community and Economic  
Development Department  
747 Market Street  
Tacoma, WA 98402**

**William Schurger  
Realty Specialist  
BLM - Wenatchee Field Office  
915 North Walla Walla  
Wenatchee, WA 98801**

**Barbara Rice  
Program Leader Rivers Trails  
Pacific West Region  
1111 Jackson Street, Suite 700  
Oakland, CA 94607**

**Clifford Villa  
Assistant Regional Counsel  
U.S. EPA – Region 10  
1200 Sixth Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98101**

**Gerald Shervey, P.E.  
Washington Department of Ecology  
Northwest Regional Office  
3190 160th Avenue SE  
Bellevue, WA 98008-5452**

**Penny Keys  
Shoreland & Coastal Zone Management  
Department of Ecology  
PO Box 47600  
Olympia, WA 98504-7600**

Brad Duncan  
Assistant State Soil Scientist  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
316 West Boone Avenue, Suite 450  
Spokane, WA 99201

Muffy Walker  
Seattle Branch Chief  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (CENWS-PA)  
P.O. Box 3755  
Seattle, WA 98124-3755

Larry Fisher  
Area Habitat Biologist  
State of WA Department of Fish and Wildlife  
16018 Mill Creek Boulevard  
Mill Creek, WA 98012

Charles Natsuhara  
Area Resource Soil Scientist  
NRCS - USDA Puyallup Service Center  
1011 East Main, Suite 106  
Puyallup, WA 98372-6768

Regional Director  
US Fish and Wildlife Service - Region 1  
911 Northeast 11th Avenue  
Portland, OR 97232-4181

Dated this 21st day of August, 2009

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kristy D. Clark